



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

JUN 15 1979

The Honorable Stansfield Turner
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

In your letter of January 10, 1979, you asked for HEW's assistance in determining whether drugs administered to individuals during the course of CIA drug studies had the potential for causing harm to these individuals. At subsequent meetings of our respective staffs, the CIA representatives provided a list of the drugs actually used in these studies. Your staff also explained that, although some of these studies were conducted by the CIA, the bulk of the studies was carried out by researchers at universities and hospitals, who were unaware that the CIA was actually funding their activities.

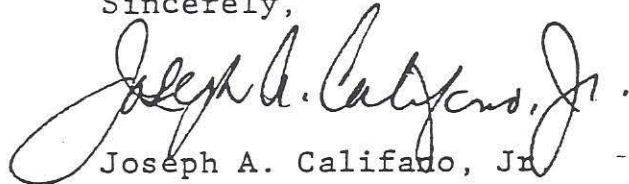
Recently, the National Institutes of Health sent to [redacted] of your staff an analysis of each of the drugs used in the studies, including information as to dosages and adverse reactions.

It is our understanding that all drugs on the list were administered in the context of research studies conducted within discrete periods of time, and that patients were not maintained on any of these drugs on a long-term basis. If that is correct, any medical injuries resulting from the Agency's studies with these drugs should have occurred at the time of the studies or shortly thereafter. The drugs used in the CIA studies are not known to cause late, delayed effects (e.g., cancer) in the absence of long-term exposure.

We believe it may be assumed that where studies with these drugs were conducted in academic institutions by reputable investigators, any short-term consequences would have been detected. If the CIA administered these drugs to persons under other circumstances, we believe you should take all possible steps to ascertain whether any individuals might have been injured as a consequence of their participation in such research.

We hope the information supplied by NIH will be of assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph A. Califano, Jr.", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

Joseph A. Califano, Jr.